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Contributors

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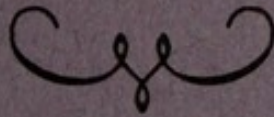
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Urban District of Ashington



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

and the



SENIOR PUBLIC

HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year

1958

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report, together with that of the Public Health Inspector, for the year 1958.

The vital statistics are less satisfactory than they were in 1957. The birth rate declined very slightly, from 15.51 to 15.18 per 1,000, whereas there was a slight increase in the rate for England and Wales. The death rate rose from 12.64 to 13.88 per 1,000 and the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.7. It is more pleasing to report that the infantile mortality rate fell from 34.41 in 1957 to 24.83 in 1958 although it was still slightly higher than the national rate of 22.5 per 1,000 live births.

The total number of deaths rose by 27, this being due to an increase of 16 in the number of deaths from diseases of the Heart and Circulation, an increase of 12 in the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms, and smaller increases in deaths due to other causes, offset by small reductions in the number of deaths from bronchitis, pneumonia and other diseases.

The number of new notifications of respiratory tuberculosis rose from 5 in 1957, to 9 in 1958 but probably for the first time since records began, no deaths were attributed to it.

Good progress was made with the improvement scheme for colliery houses and, when completed, it will be of immense benefit to the tenants and, particularly, to the housewives who have, for so long, had to manage with inadequate facilities.

I should like to thank the members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me and to express my appreciation of the work of the Public Health Inspectors and the assistance, always readily forthcoming, from other departments of the Council, when requested.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Urban District of Ashington

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

| | |
|--|---|
| Medical Officer of Health | CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| Assistant Medical Officer | KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. |
| Public Health Housing Inspector | G. W. TATE, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. |
| Meat Public Health Inspector (Meat) | S. MUSK, M.A.P.H.I. |
| Public Health Inspector (Meat) | H. G. BELL, M.A.P.H.I. |
| Offices of the Medical Officer | 146, Station Road, Ashington. |
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| Offices of the Public Health Inspector | Council Chambers, Ashington. |
| Telephone | Ashington 3210. |

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

There has been no alteration in the area or boundaries of the Urban District or in the types of employment open to the population.

The principal change, and a very welcome one, is in the increased number of houses now provided with internal piped hot and cold water supplies and improved facilities.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area in Acres | 6,057 |
| Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1958 | 28,340 |
| Rateable Value | £227,005 |
| One Penny Rate produces | £875 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958) | 8,608 |

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

| Live Births: | ... | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Legitimate | | 429 | 236 | 193 |
| Illegitimate | | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| | | 439 | 242 | 197 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population | 15.49 |
| (Comparability Factor 0.98) Standard Birth Rate | 15.18 (17.1) |

| Still Births: | Total | Male | Female |
|--|-------|--------|--------|
| Legitimate | 11 | 9 | 2 |
| Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births) | 24.44 | (21.6) | |

DEATHS

Total—305. Male—177. Female—128.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the population | 10.76 |
| (Comparability Factor 1.29) Standard Death Rate | 13.88 (11.7) |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | — (0.43) |
| Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births | — |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | 24.83 (22.5) |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 25.64 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | — |

The Registrar-General Supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958

| | Male | Female |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory | — | — |
| 2. Tuberculosis (other forms) | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Syphilitic Disease | 1 | — |
| 4. Diphtheria | — | — |
| 5. Whooping Cough | — | — |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections | — | — |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — |
| 8. Measles | — | — |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases | 2 | — |
| 10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach | 7 | 5 |
| 11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 8 | 2 |
| 12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast | — | 5 |
| 13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus | — | 4 |
| 14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms | 16 | 12 |
| 15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia | 2 | — |
| 16. Diabetes | — | 4 |
| 17. Vasuiar Lesions of Nervous System | 27 | 16 |
| 18. Coronary Disease, Angina | 42 | 17 |
| 19. Hypertension with Heart Disease | 5 | 4 |
| 20. Other Heart Diseases | 12 | 28 |
| 21. Other Circulatory Diseases | 5 | 7 |
| 22. Influenza | — | — |
| 23. Pneumonia | 2 | 4 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 12 | 4 |
| 25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System | 4 | 1 |
| 26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | 1 | — |
| 27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | — | 3 |
| 28. Nephritis and Nephrosis | — | — |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | — | — |
| 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | — | — |
| 31. Congenital Malformations | 3 | — |
| 32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases | 16 | 8 |
| 33. Motor Vehicle Accidents | 4 | — |
| 34. All other Accidents | 6 | 3 |
| 35. Suicide | 1 | — |
| 36. Homicide and Operations of War | — | — |
| | <hr/> 177 | <hr/> 128 |

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

Male 8 Female 1

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births—20.5.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

| | Total Number | % of total Deaths |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| Diseases of the Heart and Circulation | 120 | 39.34 |
| Malignant Neoplasms | 61 | 20.00 |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System | 43 | 14.098 |
| | 224 | 73.438 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1958

The total number of infants, who died before reaching the age of 1 year, was 11, and, of these, only 2 survived for more than 3 weeks. The neonatal mortality was, therefore, 20.5 per 1,000 live births, or approximately 82% of the total mortality, and it is probable that, at least, 6 of the deaths were completely unpreventable in our present state of knowledge.

The total infantile mortality rate was 24.83 per 1,000 live births, appreciably lower than the rate in 1957 when it was 33.41, and not greatly in excess of the corresponding rate for England and Wales, which was 22.5.

The following table shows the comparable mortality rates during the past ten years:

| | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Infantile Deaths under 1 year | 29 | 16 | 21 | 24 | 20 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 17 | 15 | 11 |
| Infantile Mortality | 58.10 | 30.01 | 39.10 | 45.80 | 41.75 | 18.59 | 15.49 | 29.66 | 26.09 | 33.41 | 24.83 |

The following table gives details of the cause of death in the different age groups under 1 year.

| Cause of Death | Under 1 day | 1 - 6 days | 1 - 2 weeks | 2 - 3 weeks | 3 - 4 weeks | Total under 1 mth | 1 - 3 mths | 4 - 6 mths | 7 - 9 mths | 10 - 12 mths | 1 - 12 mths | Total under 1 year |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Prematurity | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Birth Injury | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Congenital Abnormality | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Pneumonia | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Gastro-Enteritis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Disease of Blood | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | 9 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 11 |

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

| Specimen sent by | Specimen | Pos. | Neg. |
|---|---|------|------|
| General Practitioner | Swabs for Vincent's Organisms | — | 1 |
| Regional Hospital Board Physician | Sputum for B. Tuberculosis | 11 | — |
| General Practitioner | Swabs for C. Diphtheriae | — | 1 |
| General Practitioner | Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci | — | 1 |
| General Practitioner | Faeces for Pathogenic organisms ... | 27 | 9 |
| Medical Officer of Health | Faeces for Pathogenic organisms ... | 92 | 117 |
| Regional Hospital Board Physician | Faeces for Pathogenic organisms ... | 1 | — |
| Medical Officer of Health | Urine for Pathogenic organisms | — | 6 |

1 Sensitivity test was carried out.

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided and maintained by the County Council. A 24-hour service is maintained and the provision of radio control has increased the efficiency of the service and reduced the mileage covered by the ambulances.

The Ashington depot serves Ashington, Newbiggin, Lynemouth, Ellington and Linton.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is provided by the County Council.

Hospitals.

The Regional Hospital Board maintains two hospitals in the area: Ashington General Hospital and North Seaton Hospital. Ashington Hospital now draws patients from a much wider area than it did before July 1948.

Treatment Centre and Clinics.

The Regional Hospital Board provides a Chest Clinic which is situated in Lintonville Terrace.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council at the Centre in South View and some additional services are provided at 40, Bolsover Street.

Clinics are held at South View as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Every Monday morning | —Child Welfare Clinic. |
| Alternate Monday afternoons | —Birthday Clinic. |
| Every Tuesday morning | —Child Welfare Clinic. |
| Every Tuesday afternoon | —Birthday Clinic. |
| Every Wednesday morning | —Ante-Natal Clinic. |
| Every Wednesday afternoon | —Birthday Clinic. |
| Every Thursday afternoon | —Child Welfare Clinic. |
| Every 4th Friday—all day | —Diphtheria Immunisation Sessions. |

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

General Inspection.

Nuisances in the area continue to be abated principally by Informal Action, and in respect of only six properties had Statutory Notices to be served.

There was a large increase in the number of Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, totalling 173 of which 149 were for the improvement of houses owned by the National Coal Board.

In this connection it is worthy of note that the scheme owes its beginnings to the last Civic Exhibition (organised by this Department) when a model, showing a typical block of houses in the Hirst, was prepared by the Surveyor's Department and demonstrated what could be done, and what, incidentally, is now being done to the houses in the "Tree Streets."

When completed, the transformation will be most impressive, and much to the benefit of the tenants.

Under the Rents Act 1957 there were 16 applications for certificates of disrepair. In 7 cases, undertakings were received from the Landlord, while in 2 cases, the work was completed immediately. In the remaining 7 cases, certificates of disrepair were granted to the applicants.

The following table summarises the notices served:

| Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done | Verbal or Written Notices | Defects Remedied |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| Insufficient, choked or defective drainage | 132 | 135 |
| Defective W.C. basins | 3 | 3 |
| Defective W.C. cisterns and service pipes | 8 | 8 |
| Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply | 188 | 228 |
| Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply | 192 | 230 |
| Defective or missing ashbins | — | — |
| Defective roofs | 5 | 4 |
| Damp walls | 13 | 4 |
| Defective spouts | 17 | 11 |
| Defective wallplaster | 3 | 4 |
| Defective ceilings | — | 6 |
| Defective doors, windows and floors | 26 | 12 |
| Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers ... | 17 | 9 |
| Defective chimney flues | 4 | 2 |
| Defective paving and yard surfaces | 16 | 12 |
| Defective outbuildings | 12 | 7 |
| Defective food stores | — | — |
| Offensive accumulation | 6 | 6 |
| Other defects | 3 | — |

Water.

There are 8,608 occupied houses in the district, and the only one served by standpipe has now been closed.

The whole of the supply is by Tynemouth Corporation, and regular sampling undertaken both by them and by us, shows that it continues to be excellent drinking water of the highest purity.

50 samples were taken during the year by the Department of which 43 were reported to be in Class 1, 3 samples in Class 2, 2 samples in Class 3 and 2 samples in Class 4. The 7 sub-standard samples were from two sources, and after flushing in each area no further trouble was experienced.

Excellent progress has been made in dealing with approximately 400 houses and flats which are not provided with internal piped water supply, complete with sink.

The serving of informal notices to remedy this deficiency was commenced in August 1957, these notices being served in batches, at intervals which would allow the available builders and plumbers to cope with the work involved.

Up to the end of 1958, 326 informal notices, and 21 statutory notices had been served, and 261 complied with. In two cases, action had to be taken to carry out the work in default.

Drainage.

221 drainage systems were constructed, reconstructed or repaired during the year, and these were all tested and approved by the department. This is a substantial increase compared with previous years, largely due to the installation of internal water supply, and the number of private and colliery house improvements, carried out.

Swimming Baths.

The Institute baths, open to the Public as well as to Institute members were visited regularly during the year, and bacteriological samples of the bath water were found to be satisfactory. Regular sampling and testing is also undertaken by the Scientific department of the National Coal Board in Ashington, and copies of the reports are made available to this department, which co-operation is much appreciated.

Schools.

All schools in the district have a main water supply and a water carriage system.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.

Routine inspection of all such buildings was carried out during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

A start was made with improvement of National Coal Board property in the Hirst and this should in no small measure help to demonstrate that Pollution of the Atmosphere can be reduced without affecting the comfort previously enjoyed.

The disgusting habit of "accidentally allowing the chimney of one's dwelling house to become on fire" goes on and makes one wonder how these selfish and completely anti-social types are allowed by the sufferers to get away with it. The "sending to Coventry" of some people is regarded as a cruel action and difficult of justification, but it would appear to be justifiable if the seemingly thick skinned chimney firers were "sent to Coventry."

The measurement of Atmospheric Pollution in the Area was resumed in May after a lengthy stoppage of this work.

A deposit gauge, for the measurement of the deposits was again established in Hirst Park and Lead Peroxide Candles for the estimation of the relative amount of Sulphur Dioxide in the Air, were set up in Hirst Park, Memorial Park (Library Gardens) and in Woodhorn Village. These sites were agreed with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The readings obtained from these points is here set out.

| Month | Total Deposits Tons/Sq.Mile | | Milligrams of SO ₃ per 100 Sq. Centimetres per day. | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|---|---------------|------------------|
| | Rainfall | Hirst Park | Hirst | Memorial Park | Woodhorn Village |
| May | 2.47 | 21.37 | — | — | — |
| June | 2.37 | 16.09 | 0.69 | 0.38 | 0.41 |
| July | 2.68 | 30.05 | 0.64 | 0.40 | 0.51 |
| August | 2.05 | 14.12 | 1.01 | 0.56 | 0.56 |
| September | 2.31 | 20.42 | 0.96 | 0.62 | 0.57 |
| October | 1.16 | 12.05 | 1.98 | 0.68 | 0.93 |
| November | 0.26 | 8.03 | 0.28 | 0.13 | 0.13 |
| December | 3.57 | 20.72 | — | 2.14 | 3.22 |

Factors which affect the monthly readings are rainfall, speed and direction of wind and general turbulence of the atmosphere.

Variation in the total deposits in tons per square mile will be noted, but it is too early as yet to read into them any particular lesson. This will only be possible when over a period of time a pattern will emerge to allow of a more definite conclusion.

Not without interest, however, is the similarity of the estimated Sulphur Dioxide content of the Air recorded in the Library Gardens and at Woodhorn Village, as this concentration in the Atmosphere is in proportion to the amount of Coal burnt and this Sulphur Dioxide soluble in water, attacks paint, metals, stone-work, fabrics, etc., a useful pointer to the evil at hand.

During the year discussions with the National Coal Board were held on the subject of Tree Planting on the Washery heaps.

The Hexham District Officer of the Forestry Commission and our own Parks Superintendent gave invaluable advice which led at the end of the year, to have high hopes of a trial acre being established with the main objective, apart from other obvious benefits, of binding the heaps and reducing the wind born dust. The Area General Manager of the National Coal Board was, as is usual, most co-operative in this as with all other aspects of Spoilbanks.

During mid-year the tipping of Spoil on the Stone Heaps stopped. As a result firing ceased and the heaps became quiescent.

The new Stone Washer, the very first of its kind in the industry, came into use in December. Coincident with the cessation of tipping, a temporary picking belt was introduced, more Coal was recovered and the waste trucked to Lynemouth and tipped at high water mark.

The decision of the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the Town Map Inquiry held in August 1957, was still awaited at the end of the year, so that the ultimate disposal of Stone Waste remained a matter for speculation.

Suggestions to improve conditions in the Boiler House at the Miners' Welfare Swimming Baths were made and a contract for new Boilers and Automatic Stoking were eventually let.

Delivery was unfortunately in the long term category, but a reduction of smoke is within sight.

Generally there is now a greater awareness of the evils of Atmospheric Pollution and the efforts of the Department in the interests of the towns-people are beginning to be appreciated, but the ultimate result will only be achieved by the people themselves. Smoke knows no boundaries and there is no sense whatsoever in "fouling one's own nest."

Rodent Control.

Complaints have again been comparatively few, and these were quickly dealt with. The fact that our Rodent control service is free, has played a big part in keeping down large infestations, since we are usually called in at an early stage, and are thus able to prevent infestations growing and spreading.

A constant watch is kept on allotments and open spaces, and treatments are carried out wherever required.

Careless feeding of birds and poultry in allotments, is still very much in evidence, which invites infestations and hampers treatments.

The following table summarises the work done:

| TYPE OF PROPERTY | | | | | |
|---|------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | L.A. | Dwelling Houses | Agricultural Property | All other (inc. Bus. Premises) | Total |
| Total numbers of properties in the district | 8 | 8608 | 27 | 976 | 9619 |
| No. inspected because of: | | | | | |
| (a) Complaint | 4 | 49 | 3 | 50 | 106 |
| (b) as routine surveys | 4 | 36 | 24 | 255 | 319 |
| No. of Rat infestations: | | | | | |
| (a) Major | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| (b) Minor | 2 | 45 | 4 | 33 | 84 |
| No. of Mouse infestations: | | | | | |
| (a) Major | 1 | — | — | 2 | 3 |
| (b) Minor | — | 7 | — | 19 | 26 |
| No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority ... | 4 | 52 | 4 | 55 | 115 |

Burial Grounds.

The question of disposal of the dead remains much the same as for previous years and there is nothing further to report in this connection.

Pet Animals Act.

Licences under these provisions were granted to two stall holders, one in the open market, and one in the closed market.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ending 31st December 1958.

| | No. of Inspections during year. | No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws. | No. of Informal Notices served. | Defects remedied by Informal Action. | No. of Statutory Notices served. | Defects remedied by Statutory Action. | Legal Proceedings. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| HOUSING | | | | | | | |
| Structural Defects | 522 | 81 | 63 | 46 | 18 | 9 | — |
| Defective Food Store | 522 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dampness | 522 | 35 | 29 | 17 | 6 | 2 | — |
| Overcrowding | 522 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| WATER SUPPLY | | | | | | | |
| Insufficient | 544 | 188 | 183 | 218 | 5 | 10 | — |
| Unsatisfactory | 544 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 2 | — | — |
| DRAINAGE | | | | | | | |
| Insufficient | 300 | 132 | 127 | 131 | 5 | 4 | — |
| Defective | 300 | 45 | 6 | 45 | 3 | — | — |
| SANITARY CONVENIENCES | | | | | | | |
| Insufficient | 51 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Defective | 51 | 15 | 10 | 12 | 5 | 1 | — |
| GENERAL | | | | | | | |
| Food Premises | 531 | 43 | — | 113 | — | — | — |
| Dairies | 7 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Slaughterhouses | 636 | 9 | — | 9 | — | — | — |
| Tents, Vans, etc. | 8 | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Offensive Trades | 24 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Factories and Workplaces | 157 | 10 | — | 9 | — | — | — |
| Keeping of Animals | 8 | 4 | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Insanitary Ashpits and Bins | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Offensive Accumulations | 9 | 6 | — | 6 | — | — | — |
| Smoke Nuisances | 51 | 13 | — | 13 | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 2848 | 592 | 424 | 634 | 44 | 26 | — |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

There are 114 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during the year under review.

There are no outworkers in the district.

The "other" premises included in Section (3) of Table 1 are five building sites on which sanitary accommodation had to be provided.

1. INSPECTIONS

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| i Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A. | 37 | 42 | — | — |
| ii Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 72 | 73 | 1 | — |
| iii Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | 5 | 9 | — | — |
| Total | 114 | 124 | 1 | — |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 6 | 6 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 10 | 9 | — | 1 | — |

SECTION D

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Houses completed during the year:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| (a) By Local Authority | 73 |
| (b) By other bodies or Persons | 13 |

Closing and Demolition.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas | — |
| 2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas | — |
| 3. Houses closed, not demolished | 1 |
| 4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above | 3 |

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health, Acts.

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. By Informal Action | 256 |
| 2. By owners, following statutory notice | 16 |
| 3. By Local Authority in default of owners | — |
| 4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction | — |

Houses Patched.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Houses in Clearance Areas retained for temporary accommodation | — |
|---|---|

Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949.

| | No. of Separate houses |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year | 173 |
| 2. Applications rejected | — |
| 3. Applications approved | 173 |
| 4. Approximate average grant approved per house | £260 |
| 5. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme | 310 |

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1952.

Eight premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream. They have all been inspected regularly, and found to comply with the above regulations and with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

During the year 28 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the prescribed tests under the regulations. Reports were returned as follows:

- Grade 1—15 samples.
- Grade 2—10 samples.
- Grade 4— 3 samples.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type in the area is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Confectionery | 16 |
| Grocers and General Dealers | 109 |
| Butchers | 26 |
| Greengrocery | 17 |
| Bakery | 14 |
| Temperance Bars | 8 |
| Fish (wet) | 2 |
| Fish and Chips | 12 |
| Cafes | 2 |

Three premises are registered as dairies, 69 persons registered as distributors of milk, and 78 licences were issued to milk dealers, including one supplementary licence.

100 premises are registered for the sale and/or manufacture of ice-cream, and 28 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc., of which 6 premises are registered for both purposes.

531 visits to food premises were made during the year, and 43 contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found. 113 such contraventions were found to be remedied, most of these having been drawn to the notice of the occupiers during the previous year.

No prosecutions have yet been found necessary to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. The general standards of Food Hygiene in the district are now quite high, and most of the contraventions found are of a minor character, though it is nonetheless important that they be remedied. The unprotected display of unwrapped food on shop counters is still the most frequent offence, and it is hoped that customers will eventually realise that food displayed behind glass is no less fresh than food placed on the counter, and open to coughs and sneezes and the inquisitive fingers of young children.

Foreign Matter in Food.

Foreign matters found in food, and reported to us during the year were:

- Crystal in Tuna Fish.
- Crystal in Loaf.
- Cloth impregnated with vegetable oil in Loaf.

The crystal in the Tuna Fish was too small for analysis, but appeared to be a salt crystal, while the crystal in the Loaf was brought to us in a buttered slice, and was identified as a sugar nib.

In the case of the vegetable oil cloth, the complainant did not wish to give evidence in a prosecution, and the bakery was cautioned.

Food and Drugs.

Regular samples of food and drugs have been taken in the district by the Northumberland County Council and submitted to the Public Analyst.

Details of these samples have been kindly provided by Mr. C. J. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, showing that 128 samples of milk and miscellaneous foods were taken during the year.

All samples were reported as satisfactory, with the single exception of a sample of Potted Meat which contained an excess of water.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughtering was discontinued at one slaughterhouse and a renewal of the slaughterhouse licence was not sought.

The four remaining slaughterhouses were granted a renewal of licence for a further twelve months.

Number of Animals Slaughtered during the Year.

| | Bullocks | Heifers | Cows | Bulls | Calves | Pigs | Sheep |
|-------------------|----------|---------|------|-------|--------|------|-------|
| Normal Kill | 914 | 933 | — | — | 6 | 1422 | 2933 |
| Casualties | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 31 |
| Total | 914 | 933 | — | — | 6 | 1423 | 2964 |

The amount of meat and organs condemned together with the reasons for condemnation, is set out in the following tables. All meat and offal condemned is processed for the extraction of fat, glues etc.

The quality of animals slaughtered and inspected is demonstrably good.

Meat and other Organs Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed.

For Tuberculosis.

Bovine:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Heads and Tongues | 30 |
| Lungs | 44 |
| Livers | 17 |
| Spleens | 1 |
| Mesenteries | 6 |
| Gut | 6 |
| Tripe | 6 |
| Beef | 686 lbs. |
| Carcases | 2 |

(Total Weight—92 stones)

Swine:

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Heads | 28 |
| Lungs | 1 |

For other Defined Diseases.

Bovine:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Heads and Tongues | C. Bovis 14; Actinobacillus 2; Abscesses 1. |
| Lungs | Pleurisy 3; Parasites 9; Abscesses 2. |
| Livers | Cirrhosis (whole) 40; (part) 519; Abscesses 38; Hydatids 3. |
| Hearts | C. Bovis 5; Pericarditis 4. |
| Skirts | Inflammation 1; Abscesses 1. |
| Mesenteries | Pentastomes 4. |
| Gut | Inflammation 1. |
| Tripe | Inflammation 1. |
| Beef | Abscesses 14 lbs; Bruising 30 lbs. |

Sheep:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Plucks | Pleurisy 2; Pneumonia 3; Septic Pleurisy 1. |
| Livers | Parasites 31; Abscesses 4. |
| Kidneys | Nephritis 4. |
| Mutton | Septic Pleurisy 6 lbs. Abscesses 5 lbs. |
| Carcases | Illsetting and Oedema 2; Oedema and Emaciation 1. Total Weight—190 lbs.) |

Swine:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Lungs | Pneumonia 85; Pleurisy 42. |
| Livers | Perihepatitis 14; Parasites 45. |
| Hearts | Pericarditis 31. |
| Stomach | Inflammation 1. |
| Pork | Inflammation 6 lbs; Arthritis 20 lbs; Abscesses 5 lbs. |

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in Part.

| | Cattle excl. Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|-------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| No. killed and inspected | 1847 | — | 6 | 2964 | 1423 |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 89 | — | — | 48 | 143 |
| Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci | 4.8 | — | — | 1.7 | 10 |
| Tuberculosis Only. | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned... | 68 | — | — | — | 31 |
| Percentage affected with Tuberculosis | 3.8 | — | — | — | 2.2 |
| Cysticercosis. | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned... | 18 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | 18 | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — |

Other Foods.

The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Canned Goods | 1697 tins | Bacon | 314 lbs. |
| Bread and Confectionery | 9 lbs. | Sausage | 53 lbs. |
| Butter and Cheese | 14 lbs. | Meat | 116 lbs. |
| Pork Pies | 27 lbs. | Potatoes | 42 cwts. |

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character. Tinned Meat, where suitable, is used as rat bait.

Other foods are burned, when suitable arrangements can be made to use some of the large boilers in the district, or buried, or when suitable, used for pig food.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS**

| Disease | Age unknown | Under 1 year | 1—2 years | 3—4 years | 5—9 years | 10—14 years | 15—24 years | 25—34 years | 35—44 years | 45—54 years | 55—64 years | 65—74 years | 75 years & over | Total | Admitted to Hospital |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|
| Dysentery | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 36 | 8 | — | 3 | 4 | 2 | — | — | — | 67 | — |
| Measles | — | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | 1 | 3 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 9 | — |
| Typhoid Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | 1 | 4 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | — |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| TOTAL | 1 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 49 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 95 | 1 |

Sonne Dysentery.

This was the only notifiable infectious disease which was prevalent during 1959. Apart from 3 cases in January and 1 in October all the remaining cases, 63 in number, were notified between 20th November and the end of December. As will be seen from the above table, those most affected were school-children. Fifteen households had multiple cases, one having six children affected, and another 4.

Only 10 adults were notified and 8 of these were parents of infected school-children, while one had been looking after a child who had been infected.

As usual, there was reason to suppose that the actual number of cases was considerably in excess of the number of cases notified.

Typhoid Fever.

The single case of this disease occurred in a young married woman, living in with her husband's parents and grandmother. The grandmother had a history of having had Typhoid Fever in 1918 and, on investigation, she was found to be a carrier. The same type of organism was isolated both from the grandmother and from the patient and there can be no doubt that this was the source of infection.

Diphtheria.

No case of this disease has been seen in the past nine years and no fatal case in the past 12 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year, 303 pre-school children completed the primary course of immunisation and 205 children received re-inforcing injections.

It was estimated that, at 31.12.58, the immunity indices for the different age groups were as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Under 1 year | 17.85% |
| 1—4 years | 89.52% |
| 5—14 years | 55.94% |
| All children under 15 years | 61.47% |

These percentages are satisfactory for the younger children but show a very marked decline in the figure for school children. This is due to the fact that the intensification of the anti-poliomyelitis vaccination campaign, which involved a great deal of work, made it impossible to visit the schools to give re-inforcing injections against Diphtheria.

It is to be hoped that it will be possible, before long, to resume immunisation in the schools.

Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The use of this method of protection against Poliomyelitis began in this country in 1956, was extended in 1957 and was further extended to additional age-groups in 1958 when it was made available to all up to the age of 26 years. The parents of children under 15 years, responded very well but little interest in the scheme was shown by those in the older age-groups, at least up to the end of the year.

In 1958, too, a third injection was offered for the first time to all children who had already had two injections.

Separate figures are not available for Ashington Urban District but figures for the whole of the Central Area of the County may be of interest.

Between 1st December, 1956 and 31 December 1957, 3,300 children completed the primary course of two injections, but in 1958, 8,186 persons in all groups completed the primary course and 3,407 children received a third injection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1958.

| Age Groups | NEW CASES | | | | | DEATHS | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | Resp. | | Non-Resp. | | Total | Resp. | | Non-Resp. | | Total |
| | M | F | M | F | | M | F | M | F | |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 - 4 years | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 - 14 years | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 - 24 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 - 34 years | 3 | 1 | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35 - 44 years | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 - 54 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 - 64 years | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 - 74 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 75 years and over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total | 8 | 1 | — | 1 | 10 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |

During 1958, 9 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified. This is an increase of 4 in the number of cases.

For the first time since notification began, no death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The Registrar-General's returns show 1 male and 1 female deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis but in the returns received by the Health Department only one death is recorded which can be attributed to this disease. The patient was a man aged 87 years. No female death registered, appears to be even remotely connected with tuberculosis.

The death rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis was, therefore, 0.0353 per 1,000 of the population.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

| Site | MALES | | | | | | | FEMALES | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| | 5 yrs | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75+ | Total | 25-35 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75+ | Total |
| Parotid | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Pharynx | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Larynx | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lung and Bronchus | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | 7 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Breast | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Mediastinum | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stomach | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Pancreas | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Liver | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Caecum | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Colon | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Kidney | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rectum | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cervix | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Prostate | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nervous System | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Melanoma | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Haematopoietic System | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Oesophagus | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ovary | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 28 |

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Death Rate in Ashington | 0.317 per 1,000. |
| Death Rate in England and Wales | 0.439 per 1,000. |

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Death Rate in Ashington | 1.834 per 1,000. |
| Death Rate in England and Wales | 1.685 per 1,000. |

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Death Rate in Ashington | 2.152 per 1,000. |
| Total Death Rate in England and Wales | 2.124 per 1,000. |

